



Texas House of Representatives

PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

January 12, 2009

Dear Mayor and Councilmen:

As the 81st Legislative Session begins, we are hearing unfavorable reports about State Revenues, meaning a tough session again, especially as it pertains to social services, mental health, and repeat drug offender programs.

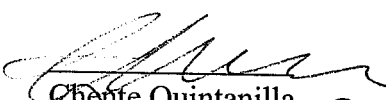
Unfortunately for our delegation, there has been negative reaction to the resolution originally passed last week by the El Paso City Council regarding the support for discussions to legalize narcotics at the federal level. There will be state agencies, state legislators and others in state government who will see this resolution as the City of El Paso supporting the legalization of drugs. Funding for local law enforcement efforts and other important programs to our community are likely being put in jeopardy, especially during a time when state resources are scarce.

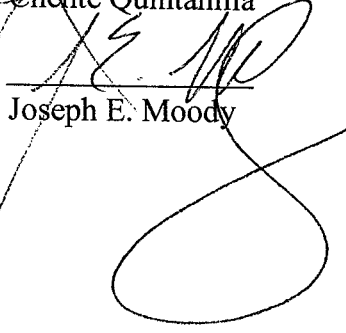
We understand your stated goal is to bring attention to the problems that illegal drugs cause in our community and society. However, the position to ask the federal government to legalize narcotics does not bring the right attention to El Paso. It says "we give up and we don't care."


We ask you not to override the Mayor's veto and we stand ready as your Texas State House Delegation to help you find real solutions to this real problem.

Sincerely,


Joe C. Pickett


Chente Quintanilla


Joseph E. Moody


Norma Chavez


Marisa Marquez